overall system performance when viewed from an integrated joint perspective.

The program managers or sponsors of these noncertified C4I system procurements did not participate in the joint certification process. Updates to the requirements generation and interoperability certification process instructions noted earlier, coupled with the emerging role of the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Command as the Chairman's advocate for interoperability, will establish a means to overcome these challenges and better enforce the requirement for C4I systems to participate in the joint certification process.

Assurance of Interoperability For Nation's Warfighters

JITC, as the sole joint certifier of these systems, will continue to play an active role in the interoperability requirement and testing certification process. The ultimate beneficiaries will be the warfighters who will be provided with higher levels of assurance that the systems procured for their use will interoperate.

Editor's Note: Two documents are available at **http://jitc.fhu.disa.mil/testing.htm** that provide additional insight into the joint certification process: *JITC Interoperability Assessment* contains the overall concept of interoperability and the significance of joint interoperability; *JITC Certification Process* provides a description of the JITC certification process model used throughout a system's life cycle. To obtain more information about the joint interoperability certification process, please contact 1-800-LET-JITC or visit the JITC Web site at **http://jitc.fhu.disa.mil** on the Internet.

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